

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 10 as follows:

The receiver tube 12 is provided with a hollow interior 22, as clearly illustrated in Figure 2 which receives a trailer hitch bar, not shown. The trailer hitch bar is slid into the interior 22 of the receiver tube 12 until a connecting hole 24 formed in the receiver tube 12 is aligned with a corresponding hole in the hitch bar to receive an appropriate locking pin. The outwardly projecting end of the trailer hitch bar is typically provided with a mounting ball adapted to support the tongue of an associated trailer.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 11 as follows:

The reinforcement flange 26 is formed by a cold metal forming process wherein the tube stock used to form the receiver tube 12 is placed in a clamp 32 to secure the outside surface to a predetermined length. Next, a single punch having the same cross sectional configuration as the interior of the receiver tube 12 to be strengthened is inserted into the hollow interior 22 of the tube 12. The outer surfaces of the punch are effective to support the tube 12 during the following cold forming crimping process. It will be understood that one end of the tube 12 stock extends beyond the clamp 30 32 to provide sufficient length of unsupported tube 12 stock to form the desired strengthening crimped flange 26.

Amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 25 as follows:

Next, ~~a~~ the punch is further inserted into the interior 22 of the receiver tube 12 to commence formation of the crimped reinforcement flange 26. The punch is advanced into the hollow tube interior 22 causing equal wall thicknesses in the end portion of the tube 12 to be forced against the clamp 30 32 causing the unsupported tube end to be trapped outside of the clamp 30 32 thus preventing the equal wall thickness of the receiver tube 12 from being deformed during the cold forming process. The punch is caused to continue the inward movement until a circumferentially outwardly extending shoulder of the punch meets the unsupported end of the tube 12 and continues until the unsupported tube stock folds outwardly to a developed limit. When the limit is reached, the punch continues and causes the material of the receiver tube 12 to buckle and fold inwardly upon itself until the desired cross-sectional configuration is achieved. The movement of the punch is stopped and the punch is withdrawn.